



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - December 9, 2003**

- ***In the West***, beneficial snow showers are ending across the ***central and southern Rockies***. Meanwhile, an approaching storm system is producing rain along the ***northern Pacific Coast***. Cool, dry weather prevails elsewhere in the ***West***.
- ***On the Plains***, a variety of winter weather warnings and advisories have been posted by the National Weather Service for ***Kansas, northern and western Oklahoma, Texas' northern panhandle, easternmost Colorado***, and much of ***Nebraska***. Precipitation is aiding drought-stressed winter wheat on the ***central and parts of the southern Plains***, but wind-driven snow is causing travel disruptions and stressing livestock.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow and gusty winds are disrupting travel and increasing stress on livestock across the ***upper Mississippi Valley***. The NWS has posted winter storm warnings through mid-week for much of the ***northwestern Corn Belt***. Meanwhile, rain showers are developing in the ***lower Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys***, maintaining adequate to locally excessive soil moisture for winter wheat.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers are developing ***north and west of the Delta***, providing another round of beneficial moisture for pastures and winter grains.

**Outlook:** An intensifying winter storm will track across the ***central U.S.***, resulting in a swath of significant snow from the ***central High Plains northeastward into the upper Midwest***. Later today, the storm's trailing cold front will provide a focus for heavy rainfall and possibly severe thunderstorms in the ***lower Mississippi Valley***. On Wednesday, moderate to locally heavy rain will spread into the ***East***, which may pose a flood threat in areas recently affected by heavy snowfall. Cold, dry, windy weather will return to the ***East*** by week's end. Meanwhile in the ***West***, a potent storm system will produce high winds and locally heavy precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest and northern California***. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for December 14-18 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Gulf and Atlantic Coast States***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected in the ***northern Plains, upper Midwest***, and most of the ***West***. Above-normal temperatures will reach from the ***Pacific Northwest eastward across the northern Plains and upper Midwest***, while near- to below-normal temperatures are forecast for the remainder of the ***continental U.S.***

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**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>